# Turkey and Idaho: A Job-Creating Economic Partnership



Idaho imports from Turkey totaled \$2,091,230 in 2018, more than any other MENA country besides Israel.

Idaho is home to 400 Turkish Americans; many are small business owners.

Boise and Post Falls have most of the Turkish population.

Idaho's 2018 exports to Turkey were worth \$2,412,285, making Turkey Idaho's 2nd largest importer in the MENA region.

Idaho companies, such as Boise Cascade, create jobs in Turkey.

Other Idaho companies, like Quest Aircraft, have partnerships in Turkey.



The graphic to the right shows the locations of six major companies in Idaho that have strong ties to Turkey, they include:

- A chain of restaurants owned by a Turkish-American residing in Idaho Falls.
- A \$750 million yogurt factory, the largest of its kind in the world, belonging to Chobani, owned by Turkish-American businessman Hamdi Ulukaya.
- A Boise supermarket that predominately sells goods from Turkey, the Middle East, and Africa
- Some of the biggest employers in Idaho that have investments or sales operations in Turkey, such as Boise Cascade, Micron Technology, and the Quest Aircraft Company.

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Idaho's economic ties to Turkey have brought new markets to some of the state's biggest companies, provided Idaho businesses with vital goods and services, and, most importantly, have created hundreds of jobs and over three-quarters of a billion dollars in investment for the people of Idaho.



#### **Boise Cascade: Boise**

Boise Cascade is one of Idaho's largest and most well-known companies, producing wood products and distributing construction materials all over the world.

Since the 1970s, Boise Cascade has had paper operations in Turkey.



## **TAME Grocery Store: Boise**

This Turkish-African-Middle Eastern grocery store is located in on Orchard Street, and sells food, clothing, and other items imported from Turkey and other countries in the region.



## Quest Aircraft Company: Sandpoint

Quest was started in 2001 to design and provide aircraft suitable for domestic and international humanitarian applications. Its sole product is the Kodiak single engine short takeoff and landing (STOL) aircraft.

In October 2018, it was announced that Quest entered a partnership with Turkey-based Altair Business Aviation, which currently serves as one of the companies sales agents in Asia.



#### Chobani: Twin Falls

Chobani opened the world's largest yogurt plant in Twin Falls, Idaho in 2012. The state-of-the-art facility covers 1 million square feet and is home to Chobani's Global Research and Development Center.

In August 2019, Chobani opened a 71,000 sq ft innovation and community center to its Twin Falls Plant, which includes a cafeteria, 2,185 sq ft fitness center, lactation rooms, a faith center, and a 7,000 sq ft space for town halls, shared meals, daily relaxation, and special celebrations.

The facility represents an investment of over \$750 million into the state of Idaho and the generation of over 40 jobs for Idahoans.



## The White House Grill: Post Falls

The White House Grill was the first ever restaruant started by Raci Erdem, a Post Falls resident and Turkish-American restauranteur. It has been a Post Falls landmark since 1996.

Erdem's flagship restaurant brings old Turkish family recipes to the people of Idaho, and restaurant revenue tops \$900,000 annually at the eatery.



## The Oval Office Bistro & Martini Bar: Post Falls

The Oval Office is the second restaurant started by Raci Erdem.

It currently has five employees.

Raci Erdem is currently in the process of opening his third location, the Pentagon, which will have up to 30 employees.